

Amendments to the Drawings

Please add the attached drawing page containing Fig. 2G.

Remarks

Applicants' representative again would like to express his appreciation for the interview kindly granted by the Examiner, Mr. Mitchell, on March 11, 2005. Also in attendance at the interview was Bernard Berman. During the interview claims 59, 68 and 67 were discussed. An agreement was reached that claim 59 is patentable over Fulford Jr. et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,376,330 (herein "Fulford"), and claim 68 is patentable over Fulford when amended as above set forth. In addition, an agreement was reached in respect of amending claim 67 to recite the feature described on page 21, at lines 5-8, of applicants' specification, and to add a new Fig. 2G illustrating such feature. The substance of the interview is further discussed hereinafter.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to for not showing the feature of claim 67. Although issue was taken, it was agreed during the interview to amend claim 67 to recite "the adjacent air gaps extend below the bottom surface of the conductive material" and to add an additional Fig. 2G like Fig. 2F, but showing the noted feature. Support for these changes can be found on page 21, at lines 5-8, of applicants' specification. Accordingly, the drawing objection and the related § 112 rejection of claim 67 are now moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

During the interview the art rejections based on Fulford were discussed. In particular, applicants' previously submitted arguments respecting claims 59 and 67 were reiterated and consequently clarified. The Examiner agreed that claim 59 was patentable over Fulford as previously presented, and consequently the Examiner indicated he would withdraw the finality of the December 14, 2004 Office Action.

Regarding claim 68, the Examiner expressed concern that part of the overcoat layer in Fulford could be viewed as a "film of non-conducting material that does not extend over the conductive material beyond the air gap". To obviate this concern, it was agreed to amend claim 68 to specify a "discrete" film that is distinct from the overcoat layer. It was agreed that this amendment would render claim 68 patentable over Fulford.

Withdrawn Claims

The withdrawn claims have been cancelled without prejudice to re-presentation in a divisional application.


Conclusion

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early issuance of a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By



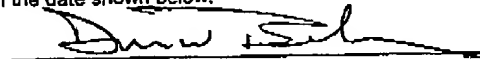
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Date: March 14, 2005


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